constituted any Committee to suggest measures to check incidents of ragging in educational institutes;

(b) if so, the details threof;

(c) the progress made so far in the Committee's work;

(d) by when a suitable legislation is proposed to be enacted in this regard;

(e) whether Government are in a position to assure the Parliament that considering ragging as a serious offence, it will bring it to zero level; and

(f) if so, by when it would be possible?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (f) On the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, a Committee has been constituted under Dr. R.K. Raghavan, former Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to suggest measures to check incidents of ragging in educational institutions and to submit its report by 5th April 2007. According to available information, the Committee has visited Guwahati, Kolkata, Bhopal, Mumbai, Jaipur, Kochi and Chennai so far for interacting with various stakeholders. The Committee is expected to submit its report only to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and, therefore, the Government is not aware of the proposals under consideration by the Committee at this stage.

Generation, transmission and distribution of power

*99. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Electricity Act, 2003, whosoever is desirous of supplying power can set up a power generation, transmission and distribution system to enable the demand for power to be met;

(b) if so, Government's action plan to realize this scenario;

(c) the systemic huudles that are not allowing this situation from being realized; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) be in negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, generation of electricity has been delicensed. Section 8 of the Act requires the concurrence of the Central Electricity Authority to the hydro-electric generation schemes whose estimated capital expenditure exceeds the limit as prescribed by the Central Government.

Transmission and distribution of electricity are licensed activities for which license is granted by the appropriate Electricity Regulatory Commission. However, no license is required for generation and distribution of electricity in a rural area notified by the State Government subject to compliance with safety measures. 26 States have already notified the rural areas.

Under the Act, surplus electricity generated from a captive generating plant can also be supplied to a licensee or to a consumer subject to the regulations made under the Act. Central Government has notified the Electricity Rules, 2005 which, *inter-alia*, prescribe the requirements for a captive power plant.

The Electricity Act, 2003 requires the Regulatory Commissions to adopt the tariff determined through a transparent process of bidding in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government. The Central Government has issued the guidelines for competitive tariff based bidding for procurement of power by distribution licensees and the guidelines for tariff based competitive bidding for transmission services. Competitive bidding has already been completed for two Ultra Mega Power Projects of capacity of 4000 MW each. Fourteen transmission projects have been identified by the Empowered Committee constituted under these guidelines for competitive bidding. Action for competitive bidding has been initiated for four of these projects.

The Act also provides that the Appropriate Commission can grant a licence to two or more persons for distribution of electricity through their own distribution system within the same area, subject to compliance with the additional requirements relating to capital adequacy, credit-worthiness, or code of conduct. Central Government has already notified the additional requirements in this regard.

Under the Act, the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) are required to provide by regulation open access to all consumers whose

demand exceeds 1 MW, latest by 27.1.2009. The SERCs of twenty States have issued regulations for introduction of open access in distribution and seventeen SERCs have specified the methodology for calculation the open access surcharge.

(c) There are no systemic hurdles in the framework.

(d) Does not arise.

Utilization of installed power capacity

*100. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of installed capacity, project-wise and grid-wise as on 2006;

(b) the details of utilization of installed capacity;

(c) whether it is a fact that the country is not in a position to utilize the installed capacity to its full length in generation due to age,seasonal fluctuations and fuel constraints; and

(d) if so, the measures initiated by Government to see that the installed capacity may be fully utilized?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The installed generation capacity in the country as on 31st March, 2006 was 1,24,287 MW comprising 82,410 MW Thermal, 33,326 MW Hydro, 3,360 MW Nuclear and 6,191 MW of Renewable Energy Sources. The region/ grid-wise and project-wise details in this regard are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 210 Annexure No. 1]

(b) and (c) The utilization of installed capacity of a generating unit is linked to the type of generation. While the thermal units are meant to be utilized continuously as base load units, hydro units are to be utilized depending on availability of water/reservoir level. Thus, utilization of installed capacity is effectively applicable to thermal (including nuclear) generating units and expressed in terms of Plant Load Factor (PLF). The PLF of thermal and nuclear units depends on a number of factors such as vintage of the unit, forced and planned outages, availability of required quality and quantity of fuel, etc. Indicator of performance of hydro generating unit is its